

A few weeks later, that is on February 15, "Nana" appeared in book form, the passages omitted from "Le Voltaire" being reinstated in the text. Large orders having been received from various parts of the world, M. Charpentier had ordered fifty-five thousand copies to be printed; but on the very day of publication he found it necessary to order ten thousand more.¹ In the case of "Nana," as in that of "L'Assommoir," the public gave no heed to the critics., who, of course, raised their customary protests. In certain matters of detail their objections were well founded. Zola had made a few mistakes in dealing with some of the *minutiae*, of theatrical and turf life,¹ and, as' Madame Edmond Adam remarked in the "Nouvelle Eevue" — and as the author himself subsequently admitted — Nana was shown accomplishing in few years what, in actual life, would have taken a woman much longer to accomplish. That, however, was forced upon Zola by the scheme of his series, the incidents recorded in which had to occur between the years 1852 and 1870.² When all is said, taking "Nana" in its *ensemble*, it was certainly the most truthful picture ever traced of the

¹ "ITana," Paris, Charpentier, 1880, 18mo, 528 pages; one hundred and sixty-sixth thousand on sale in 1893 ; one hundred and

ninety-eighth thousand in 1903 ; some special copies on Japan, India, and Dutch papers. Illustrated edition: Marpon and Flammarion, n. d. hut 1882, large 8vo titles, 456 pages, with sixty-six wood engravings after Bertall, Gill, Belonger, Olairin, etc. A hundred copies printed on Dutch paper 'with impressions of the engravings on India paper, and a special frontispiece showing Nana on a sofa. The ordinary copies of the illustrated edition were priced at 6 francs, but were also sold very largely in fifty-seven parts at 10 centimes. From 1882 to the present time (1903) over two hundred thousand copies of the illustrated edition have been sold, bringing the total sales of the work (apart from translations) to nearly half a million copies.

² See his explanations on this subject in the preface to E. A. Yizetelly's translation of "Le Docteur Pascal," London, Chatto, 1893 *et seq.*